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By the Bishop of LONDON,

A

FORM

OF

PRAYERS

For the USE of

PRIVATE FAMILIES.

On occasion of

The late Earthquakes, and other Judgments of God upon this Nation.

LONDON:

Printed for the benefit of the Publick.

THE following Prayers are Compoſſed upon the Plan of the Biſhop of London's late Paſtoral Letter, and, as far as the Writer was able, in the ſtile of our excellent Liturgy. It is apprehended that the Complaints made againſt the Compoſition of our Occaſional Prayes for many years paſt, have been chiefly owing to the uſe of modern Terms, and a Deviation from the Stile of the holy Scriptures, the Conformity to which gives that Dignity to our Liturgy, which it is believ'd no human Compoſition will ever reach, without a ſtrict Adherence to the Rule by which it was compos'd; and tho' the Author of theſe Prayers is far from thinking that our Liturgy is incapable of Improvement, yet he humbly hopes that whenever any Improvement is attempted, the Stile and Sentements of thoſe Scriptures will be the only Guide the Reformers intend to follow.

LONDON:

The Lord Bishop of *London*'s

FORM OF PRAYERS

For the Use of Private Families

OUR FATHER, &c.

I.

O LORD GOD, uncontroulable in thy Power and terrible in thy Judgments, who, for the Wickedness of them that dwelt therein, didst utterly destroy thy chosen City Jerusalem, so that not one Stone was left upon another, engrave in our Hearts so deep a Sense of our own Sins, and the many and horrid Impieties of these great Cities, that

that we may, by true Repentance and humble Contrition of Heart, turn away thy wrathful Indignation from us. O let not a ſudden Deſtruction come upon us unawares, nor the Earth open and ſwallow us up quick. Spare us, O Lord ſpare thy People whom thou haſt choſen for thyſelf, and the Cities wherein thou haſt placed thy Name. Save us therefore for thy Names's ſake, and let not the Enemy ſay, Where is now their God? Thou art Holy, O God thou art Holy, but we are Sinful and abominable: Our whole Head is corrupt, and our whole Bodies full of Sores: Heal and deliver us O merciful Father, through the Blood of thy Son Jeſus Chriſt our only Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

II.

O GOD who in thy Wroth doſt cauſe the Hills to melt away, and the Foundation of the Earth to be ſhaken, who didſt make Earthquakes the Beginning of Sorrows and the Forerunners of final Deſtruction to the People of Iſrael, becauſe through hardneſs of Heart, they rejected thy holy Goſpel, and Crucified the Lord of Life. O grant that the late dreadful Earthquakes may be Warnings to us to fly from thoſe horrid impieties, which brought ſuch terrible deſtruction upon thy choſen People: Take from us all infidelity, hardneſs of Heart, and Contempt of thy Word and Command-

ments.

ments. O let not our Sins crucifie again the Lord of Life, and provoke the like Vengeance upon us. Give us a true Zeal and Love for thy Holy Law, that ſo we may put to ſilence the Wickedneſs of thoſe bold and Profligate Sinners, who are daily uttering Blaſphemies againſt thee. Grant this O merciful Father, for the ſake of thy only Son, Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

III.

ALMIGHTY God, who didſt cauſe the Earth to open and ſwallow up Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, with all their Houſholds, becauſe they rebelled againſt thy word ſpoken by thy Prophet Moſes, O let the dread of the like vengance upon us, make us fly from all rebellion againſt thy word deliver'd to us by thine only begotten Son. But alas, we have all rebelled, and do ſtill rebel againſt thee, and if thou art extreme to mark what is done amiſs, who can ſtand before thee? How can we hope to eſcape, who have neglected ſuch great Salvation? Oh! we have ſinned, we have dealt Wickedly, but thou art holy, long ſuffering and of great Mercy. Hear us therefore, O Lord hear us, O let not the Grave ſhut her mouth upon us: but grant us Grace and time to repent of our manifold Sins, and Wickedneſs, that we may Live to Praiſe thy Name in the great Congregation,, and teſtifie thy mercy to Generations to come. Grant this, we moſt humbly beſeech thee, for thy mercies ſake in Chriſt Jeſus, who

same not to destroy but to save Sinners. To him therefore, with thee, and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed all Honour, Glory, Power, Might, Majesty and Dominion, both now and for evermore. Amen.

IV.

ALmighty God, who in the midst of Judgments dost remember Mercy, and didst turn away thy Vengence from the great City of Nineveh, because it repented at the Preaching of Prophet Jonas, O let not our Heart be hardned against thy late Threats of Vengeance, and thy many gracious Calls of thy Mercy in Christ Jesus. But as we fear that we have surpassed the Men of Nineveh in our heinous Sins and Wickedness, and by our ungrateful Rejection of a much greater Prophet than Jonas, O grant us thy abundant Grace, that we may pass them also in a deeper Humiliation, and a more universal Repentance, that so we may be saved from thy Vengence in this World, and that the Men of Nineveh may not rise up in Judgment against us at the last Day. Grant this for the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

V.

O MOST mighty and most adorable God, who didst destroy the Cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by a sudden and dreadful Fire, and hast left them a terrible mark of thy Vengeance to all

Generations

Generations: Raiſe in us we beſeech thee, the greatſt Abhorrence and deteſtation of that unnatural Wickedneſs, which call'd down thy Wrath upon them. Arm our Magiſtrates with Wiſdom to diſcover, and power to Puniſh all the Workers of ſuch horrid Iniquity, that ſo they may be utterly rooted out, and Nation. and that when thou Viſiteſt us in Wrath, this Vile Abomination *may not be laid to our charge. Grant this for thy Mercies ſake in Jeſus Chriſt our Saviour. Amen.*

VI.

O LORD God, King of Kins, and Lord of Lords, in whoſe Hands is Dominion and Power, and who for the Wickedneſs of thy choſen People, didſt ſuffer the Heathen to pollute thy Sanctuary, and an Idolatrous Nation to deſtroy the Inhabitants of Judæa: O let not our horrid Impieties provoke thee to overturn our Church and Nation, and to give us up a Pray to to Idolatrous and Blood-thirſty Men, who ſet up other Gods beſide thee, and would make us bow our Knees to bow our Knees to Wood and Stone. For thou only art our Hope and Strength; thou only canſt redeem us from our Sins, and under the Shadow of thy Mercies can we be ſafe. O let us not be led aſtray by the Fraud or Malice, the Power or Threats of the Enemy, nor be ever drawn to worſhip any other Gods but thee; but make us to know and feel that there is none other Name under Heaven given to Man, in whom and through whom we may receive Strength and Salvation but only the Name of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

VII.

VIII.

O LORD, who in former Times haſt redeemed the People of this Nation from temporal and ſpiritual Tyranny, and beſtowed on us the Bleſſings of civil Freedom and the glorious Liberty of the Goſpel, continue to us, we beſeech thee, theſe great Mercies; preſerve thy Servant our Sovereign King GEORGE, that under his Guidance we may be ſafe from all Tyranny and popiſh Idolatry. Give us a due Senſe of the Bleſſings we enjoy, and let us not make our Liberty an Occaſion of forgetting thee, or deſpiſing thoſe whom thou haſt ſet over us. Give us a due Reverence for the Laws of our Country, and a Zeal to puniſh licentious and diſobedient Sinners againſt them. But above all, give us Grace conſtantly to worſhip thee and to call upon thy Name, that ſo we may be true Members of thy holy Church in this Life, and be made Partakers of thy everlaſting Glory in the Life to come, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen

The Grace of our Lord, &c.

FINIS